A cleare Demonstra-

tion, that FERDINAND is by his owne demerits fallen from the Kingdome of BOHEMIA, and the incorporate Prouinces.

B 55 d 15
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Written by a Noble-man of POLONIA.

And translated out of the second Edition enlarged.

Ferdinand II., Emperor of Germany.
K

at. Dort.
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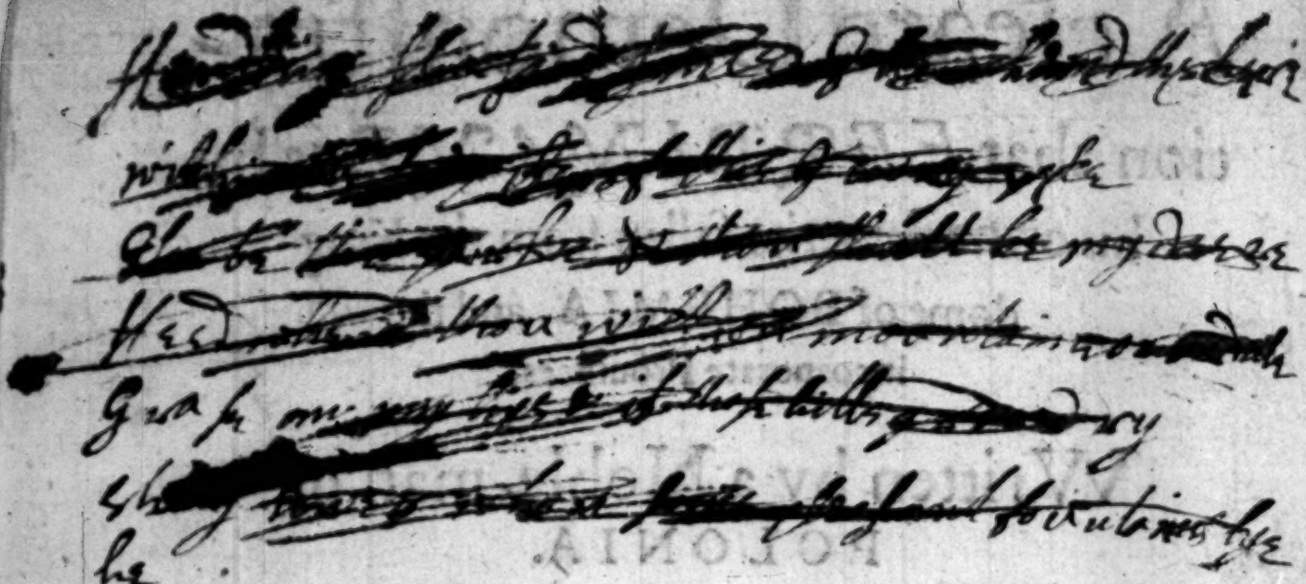

BRITISH MUSEUM

IT is apparant out of holy and humane Histories, and the examples of all Kingdomes and Prouinces: That the safety and prosperitie of all Empires and States doth consist especially in two things. The first is, when the Lawes, couenants, priuiledges, and immunities of the Kingdome are religiously obserued and kept. And secondly, when the free exercise of true Religion is allowed and maintained, and all persecution and cruelty vtterly abrogated. On the other side, whensoeuer the priuiledges of a State are vniustly vndermined, and weakened, & the Orthodoxe Religion sharply persecuted or banished; It cannot chuse, but such a Gouernment must needes degenerate into a most outragious tyrannie, and that all bonds of faith, loue, and obedience, which doe tye the Magistrate and Subiects to one another, must needes be dissolued. For as the obseruance of the Lawes and the liberty of true Religion are the foundations, vpon which must be layd a Christian and lawfull rule allowed of God: so on the contrary, where these are wanting, it is euident that that rule, is neither lawfully constituted, nor can long continue, but doth corrupt all quiet of conscience, loue of Subiects, and the glorious renowne of such Rulers in the memory of posterity. And therefore hath it alwayes beene the greatest care and endeuour of Christian subiects, that these two pillars of their safety; to wit, the liberty of their conscience and

The Exordium is from things requisite, to maintaine the prosperity of a State.

1. Liberty of [illegible] and conscience.

2. Conseruation of all Immunities.

of their Country, should be kept firme and vnmoued. For hauing beene taught by the examples of all ages, they doe very well know, that when those that rule all, shall once begin to shake these foundations; they will neuer rest vntill they haue by deuised trickes of all crafty fetches and fraudes, driuen their Subiects in the end to desperate Resolutions, lying oppressed vnder the intollerable weight of wrongfull greeuances. That so by sedition raised by their vniust rule, they may get a cloake, or rather a coate of male for their wickednesse, and vnder pretence of repressing sedition, they may catch aduantage vtterly to roote out both the forme of a free State, and also true Religion, with all the fundamentall Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdome. Hence hath it growne a custome, and gotten strength, as by a Law of Nature, that sith in such a forme of ruling, and with such Magistrates there is found no faith or pietie, nor that sinewe which tyes the subiect and soueraigne to one another: that these Monsters are cast out of all commerce of Men, and that Christian Prouinces may (the honour of God, and integrity of Conscience alwayes prescribed) lawfully cast off such tyrannie, and depart from vnder the Yoke of such sauage Rulers. And I would to God that in this most afflicted state of the Kingdome of *Behemia*, & the incorporate Prouinces, there had beene any hope left to pious wishes, that euen these *(oh sorrow)*

had

had had no neede to complaine of the breach of the liberty both of Religion and Country, of the troubling the peace of their consciences, and of attempts to ouerthrow their fundamentall Lawes, to bring in an absolute and vnlimited Lordship against their priuiledges, of dishonest breach of Faith, of trampling Iustice vnder foot, of horrible wasting of the Common-wealth: and lastly, of all such euils whereby as by most certaine tokens the iniquity and outrage of this illegitimate kinde of Ruling, may be euidently discerned.

Here will I say nothing of that afflicted Condition which *Bohemia* and the annexed Prouinces lay vnder, before such time as they obtained their Charter for liberty of Religion. Neither will we repeat, how after that time the perfidious enemies both for our Religion and liberty, shewed themselues much more sauage then before, how accurately they were intent to the least moment of all occasions and times, to extinguish the priuiledges of the Kingdome and Prouinces, and to build vp a most cruell Lordship ouer vs, with certaine hope of rooting out our Religion.

To let goe all these things, we will turne our eyes to those things which haue beene done very lately by the instinct and practise of K. *Ferdinand*, to the vnauoydable repudiation of him. Out of which, we will make it more cleare, then the mid-

The proposition. What causes the King and Prouinces had giuen the to relect *Ferdinand.*

day

day light, that the wishes, the deuices, and the practises of those furies and firebrands of their Country, were nothing else but the burning and ruine of the Kingdome and Prouinces.

A narration. Which containes the causes of their reiection of him.

First, before we proceede further, we must vnderstand that the Kingdome of *Bohemia* for many hundred yeares past, hath euer vsed and enioyed such sanctions and priuiledges, that it hath an absolute free election of their King and Lord. And this is both euident and manifest out of the *Bohemian Chronicles*, out of many Bulls of the Emperours; out of the Reuersall Letters of their Kings, many examples of antiquity, and other most certaine proofes and demonstrations.

And albeit, there wanted not euen in former yeares some wicked fellowes, who did treacherously practise against this free election; and who vsed all their endeuour and skill, vtterly to ouerthrow it; yet was this businesse neuer handled, either with more eagernesse of affections, or with more foule and dishonest wiles and practises, then when of late *Ferdinand* was thrust in vpon vs by his owne prescription, which ministred and gaue tacite, but iust cause of his reiection that fell out vpon it.

The first cause of Ferdinands reiection. His vnorderly election.

For after that those *Sinons* had obserued that what they wickedly went about, was not possible to be done in a straight faire course and order, neither that it was allowable by the priuiledges and letters reuersall; marke, how they craftily perswaded

perſwaded *Mathias* the Emperour of bleſſed memorie, to adopt *Ferdinand*: By which deuice they made way for him to the royall dignity.

1. By reaſon of his preiudiciall adoption.

And to preuent that this practiſe of theirs ſhould not be nipt in the head at the firſt, or be quaſhed if it chanced to be diſcouered of the incorporate Prouinces, they retired backe againe to their vſuall crafty conueyances, and proclaimed a Parliament, but onely of the States of *Bohemia*, adding withall this expreſſe denunciation, *That in that aſſembly nothing ſhould be offered to Conſultation, but onely of the choyſe of a new King*, when yet it was well enough knowne to the Emperour and his Counſell, that there could be made no Legals orderly election, vnleſſe the Deputies and Ambaſſadours of all the incorporate Prouinces were preſent, and did alſo ratifie it with their voyces. And hereupon it was, that a great many of the beſt of the States of the Kingdome abhorred that conuenticle, & would not come vnto it, ſith alſo euen thoſe that were preſent, & alledged their priuiledges of a free election, and withall the abſence of the greateſt part of the States, as wel as of the incorporate Prouinces, both whoſe voyces were of neceſſity to a legall election, were grieuouſly threatned, *that if they would perſeuere in that opinion it ſhould coſt them their heads euery man of them.* This feare thus threatned, which might daunt the moſt conſtant man (for ouer and beſides this, the cruelty of former puniſhments,

2. For their paſſing by of the confederate Prouinces, who haue their voyces in the election.

3. For the incompleat aſſembly of the States of *Bohemia*.

4. For their threatning ſuch as refuſed their aſſent.

were also vnder hand beaten into their memories, and withall the sauageneſſe exerciſed by *Ferdinand* in his owne hereditarie Prouinces, were freſh in their Memorie) they did in the end ſo bring their purpoſes to paſſe that from the leaſt part of the States, and ſuch as were thorowly already terrified with their menacings, and ſo by open violence they did extort a ſilly pretended Election and Coronation. The reſt of the Officers of the Kingdome and others, who had of their owne accord yeelded their aſſent, and had beene Miniſters of their threatnings & practiſes, were not onely laden with large promiſes, but alſo corrupted with liberall gifts, that by their ſeruice and practiſe it was ſo brought about, that no one durſt vſe the word of Election, but blotting out that they did, againſt all priuiledges, and vnder their names alſo, who altogether abhorred this proceeding, and had no hand in this preuarication accept *Ferdinand* for their King, and alſo crowned him. And theſe things thoſe degenerate Citizens, and enemies of their Country, did thinke fit for them to doe with more ſtudy and endeauour, for that they perſwaded themſelues, that this was the readieſt way for *Ferdinand*, to roote out the Euangelicall Religion, which they very well knew that he did extreamely hate.

5. For Rewards promiſed to ſuch as aſſented vnto them.

6. For prohibiting to vſe the name of *Election*.

II. The ſecond cauſe of their reiection, the

And that K. *Ferdinand* might more certainely for the time to come, vtterly take away from the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, and the annexed Prouin-

ces their free Election, and pull vp by the rootes the Euangelicall Religion, and ouerthrow, and weede out their fundamentall Lawes; He made comparts with the King of *Spaine* by secret practise, withhout priuity of the States of the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, and (which was worse) before euer he was chosen King, or could pretend any interest to *Bohemia*, which manifestly tended to annihilate the priuiledges of the Kingdome and Prouinces, the liberty of Election, and all the lawes and rights of the *Bohemians*. And in those Compacts, hee gaue his assent, that the King of *Spaine* his posterity and heires, for want of issue male of his Fathers line, should succeede in the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, by right of inheritance. This Deede how cruell and horrible it is, any one may easily discerne, who hath but euen a farre off knowne the absolute domination of the Spaniards; which if it had got in amongst them, would heereafter haue compelled them to exchange their inestimable good of liberty with euerlasting bondage, the light of the Gospels trueth, with the darknesse of humane traditions, and their most ample priuiledges, with the cruell inquisition of the Spaniards. For if this succession should haue come in vpon defect of the male Line of *Ferdinand*, and his brethren, then surely these Prouinces should haue beene exposed to the scornefull vsage of the Spaniards, who afterwards might haue posted them ouer at their pleasure

most pernitious compact with the Spaniard: made
1. Without priuity of the States.
2. Ere euer *Ferdinand* was elected.
3. Which tended to ouerthrow their free election, and to bring in the Spanish rule ouer them.

The discomodities which they should haue endured would haue beene.
1. Losse of their liberty.
2. Bringing in of humane traditions.
3. Of the Spanish inquisition.

4. The ſcorning of the Prouinces.
5. The free alienation of them.
6. The diſhonouring of royall families.

ſure vnto Strangers, or, as a thing of no great moment, they might haue granted them to this or that Sonne of the Earth, or baſe fellow, as a Reward of their perfidie and cruelty, not without the eternall ſtaine and ſhame of moſt illuſtrious families in theſe Prouinces, which fetch their originall from the bloud of Kings and Princes, and whoſe braue Auncestors would a thouſand times rather haue choſen to haue died a generous death, then to haue endured their liberty, to haue beene pent vp in the priſon of this intollerable ſeruitude. Moreouer, euen *Ferdinand* himſelfe, after he had firſt left them naked, and diſpoiled of their liberty and priuiledges, ſhould himſelfe haue raigned but as the Vicar of the Spaniard.

7. The debaſing of the Kingdome by a Vicarſhip.

8. The ruine of the Romane Empire.

And into what ſtraights and perils ſhould the Romane Empire haue beene hurled, if way ſhould thus haue beene made to the Spaniard by theſe Compacts? If he had once obtained *Behemia*, and gotten to be an Elector, he would neuer haue reſted vntill he had ſeized vpon the higheſt dignity of the Empire, and inueſted himſelfe into the Crowne Imperiall. By which engine the foundations of the golden Bull, and the forme of the Empire muſt of neceſſity haue beene ouerturned.

9. The ſubuerſion of the golden Bull.

Now by all theſe things, it is very euident, that *Ferdinand* by theſe clandeſtine conuentions, hath ſo exceedingly and perilouſly preiudiced this whole Kingdome, and the confederate Prouinces, that vnleſſe he had miſſed of ſucceſſe, the *Behemians*

hemians might already haue bid farewell to the safety of themselues and the State, to the liberty of their Faith and conscience, and to that most pretious *Palladium* of the Kingdome, to wit, their free Election, and their other priuiledges.

It followes then necessarily of this that I haue said, that the Election of *Ferdinand* was not onely made at first contrary to their priuiledges, but also after made vtterly voyd by these Spanish compacts. And for this very cause, we ought not sinisterly to censure these Prouinces, which prouiding for the safety of themselues and their posterity, haue now already abolished these so often fore-named Compacts, after once they came to be knowne abroad, and haue made a Nullity of *Ferdenands* Election, that was made according vnto them.

III

The third cause of *Ferdinands* reiection. His euident practise against his Letters Reuersall.

But let it be supposed, though in no sort it is to be granted, that King *Ferdinand* was legally elected, by the vertue of the priuiledges by the faire and ordinary way, and of all the States of the Kingdome, and of the Prouinces by an vniuersall, and concording consent of voyces, that hee was solemnely crowned, and confirmed by homage done vnto him: which yet was done vpon certaine conditions, and euentuall promise, as euery one may see both by his Oath and his Letters reuersall: Yet hath *Ferdinand* after his Election and Coronation so miscaried himselfe, that it may be truly said, that hee is fallen from

Consisting.

the Kingdome, and hath forfaited it by his owne misdemeanour.

1. In denying to performe that good carriage and Kingly loue that he promised to the States.

Betweene a continuall King and his Subiects there is an euident relation, and reciprocall obligation, that if on the one part Fealty and obedience be due, on the other part also there is necessarily required, constancie in his word, and keeping of his promise. Now King *Ferdinand* did in speciall termes and expresse words promise in his Letters reuersall, *That hee would receiue the Royall Scepter of the States with thankfull remembrance; that he would carrie himselfe with that royall grace, and with such fauour towards euery one, that he might thereby satisfie their desire, and deserue the loue of all, and that he would most graciously recompence it.*

In *Mathias* his life time.

Yet his deedes haue not beene answerable to his words. For he hath so caried himselfe, that it may seeme it was his onely endeauour, how he might most crosse & break his promises. For although it is sufficiently proued, that all the stirres and troubles made in *Bohemia*, whiles *Mathias* the Emperour was aliue, had no other well-spring, but persecution of Religion, as the Apologies, decrees of Parliament, formes of instructions, and humble petitions, intercessions, and diuers other things of that nature, set forth in great plenty by the *Bohemians*, *Moranians*, and *Silesians*, doe shew.

2. *Ferdinand* maintained an others warre.

Yet *Ferdinand* hath since vsed farre greater endeauour to oppresse Religion, and hath as much as lay in him, maintained this deadly warre, with

Armes,

Armes, Counsels, and practises. For euen presently at the beginning of these stirres, and while the Emperour liued, he raised *Tyria Maria* against the *Bohemians*, he sent for his owne Army out of *Styria*, and in the assembly of the *Moravians* hee himselfe desired passage for his Souldiers, and by the power of the Popish faction then predominant amongst them obtained it. Hee did then there pronounce the States, professing the Gospell in *Bohemia* to bee Rebels, and declared himselfe a most open and vowed enemie of them.

2. He accused the States of *Bohemia* of rebellion.
3. And declared himselfe an enemie of them.

After the death of *Mathias*, K. *Ferdinand* gaue not ouer, but rather with full cheekes proclaimed an Alarum, bound all the Souldiers in Oath vnto himselfe, did most earnestly desire the ayde of forraigne Princes addicted to the Romish Religion. In stead of royall grace, and good turnes so solemnly promised to the Kingdome, he exercised most exquisite kindes of all cruelty against the *Bohemians*; and (which cannot be heard without horrour) he committed such outrage, with most barbarous fury, and lust against dead Christians, against men made according to Gods Image, that those horrible cruelties, of *Busiris*, *Phalaris*, the *Turkes*, and other sauage Monsters, so much spoken of, compared with these furies, were but toyes.

When *Mathias* was dead, He made the warre of another his own.
1. By entertaining the late Emperours Souldiers.
2. By seeking forraigne ayde.
3. By exercising all kinde of cruelty.

The Letters Reuersall doe expresly intend, that King *Ferdinand* should not meddle with gouernment,

II
In his vnseasonable go-

uernment, while the Emperour *Mathias* liued. But King *Ferdinand* made himselfe chiefe Ruler of all, commands the olde President of the Councell to be banished contrary to the Emperours minde; made himselfe the new President, directed all the Counsels, corrected the decisions and decrees of the Emperour, according to his owne pleasure, vsed all meanes to aduance the warre, gaue in charge to the Souldiers, and to *Bucquoy* the chiefe Generall of the Armie, what should be performed, and what should be omitted: and, contrary to his faith giuen, carries himselfe in all things, as King and Lord while the Emperour is yet aliue.

ernement which hee shewed.
1. By putting out Cardinal *Cesall* President of the Councell.
2. By correcting the Emperours decisions and decrees.
3. By giuing directions to *Bucquoy*.

III

The Letters Reuersall of the King, doe require Confirmation of all priuiledges. King *Ferdinand* hath wholy laboured vtterly to ouerthrow all priuiledges by his treaties and conuentions with the King of *Spaine*, and by the warres which hee hath continued vntill this day by his owne Armes, and the forces of others. Now by this his action, he hath giuen the cause that the State hath beene vtterly changed from the time of the exhibiting the Letters Reuersals. Hence was it, that while the Emperour was yet liuing, a naked confirmation of priuiledges was now no more thought sufficient, but besides the abolishing of the grieuances determined and expressed in the priuiledges, such a caution was required, which should not consist in paper onely and in waxe,

In refusing assurance of the priuiledges to be performed with effect requiring.

1. Not a naked confirmation of priuiledges.
2. But moreouer.
3. A full abolishing of grieuances.
4. And a caution that they

(for

(for they were sufficiently prouided, of that already) but which should in very deede giue them true Libertie of exercising Religion. *Ferdinand* ought to haue beene changed, But he obstinately persisted in his opinion, as if all things had beene entire and at liberty. And leauing that kinde of concertation which is proper to man, hee fled vnto that which is belonging to beasts, and went about by force, and Armes to compell the Prouinces to execute his vniust cõmands. And this may be better euident, euen from hence, that in all that time, which was long enough, in which the Ambassadors of all the Prouinces met at *Prague*, carefully consulting how peace might be recouered, and tranquillity restored, hee did not giue the least signification of a minde enclining to peace, or any hope that hee would with effect confirme their priuiledges, neither can it be discerned, that hee yet purposeth to doe it.

should be no more troubled for Religion.

By these things therefore which we haue rehearsed, euery one that is a friend of equity and goodnesse, may easily iudge whether *Ferdinand* hath not by his owne courses and practises iustly depriued himselfe of the gouernement of this Kingdom & Prouinces? especially also, sith by the plaine words of his own Reuersall Letters the Prouinces (thinges standing as

now they doe) are bound in no bond of subiection or fealty.

IIII The 4. cause of his reiection, the breaking of his Oath.

Neither hath *Ferdinand* performed his Oath which hee solemnly made to the States of *Bohemia*, and so by consequence to the incorporate Prouinces; but hath broken it many and diuers wayes. For whereas the Oath doth plainely binde the King, that hee shall defend the immunities & priuiledges of all the Countries; *Ferdinand* hath practised to ouerthrow all the priuiledges, which confirme the free election of their King, yea, and in the businesse of Religion, and the ratefying of the maiesticall Letters, he hath neither giuen, nor euer purposed to giue any security at all.

1. In the weakning of the immunities of the Kingdome.

2. Not by pulling som part. But by passing ouer the whole body of the Kingdome.

By the vertue of his Oath, the King ought not to diminish any thing at all of the Kingdome. But *Ferdinand* by the fore-said parts with *Spaine*, hath not onely pulled away some part from the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, but hath passed ouer the whole Kingdome, with the annexed Prouinces to the Spanish line, in case that his and his brothers should chaunce to faile, when as yet it is an vndoubted and most certaine rule of Polititians, that no King in an electiue Kingdome hath power to doe any thing by alienation, without the knowledge and consent of the Countries and States: or if he doe any thing vnder-hand to the preiudice

and

and perill of the Countries, that hee hath vndoubtedly forfaited the Crowne, Scepter, and gouernment.

King *Ferdinand* promiſed by Oath, that hee would amplifie and encreaſe the Kingdome of *Bohemia*. But he hath afflicted theſe Lands with fire and ſword, and with the extreameſt miſeries of warre, and hath waſted a great part of *Bohemia* and *Morauia*, without any lawfull cauſe, and leauing no kinde of cruelty vnacted, hath brought it into a wilderneſſe; yea, he hath expoſed all the Countries to the ſpoyle and prey of the Souldiers, as is to be ſeene by his owne Letters intercepted.

3. By the merualous waſting of the Country.

King *Ferdinand* ſware that he would doe all things, which might aduance the honour, dignity, and proſperity of the Kingdome. But he hath accuſed the States of *Bohemia* of rebellion, and hath purſued them with more then Turkiſh and barbarous hate, and that before euer he entred vpon the gouernment, before the Emperour *Mathias* died, before euer he could ſhew that they had giuen him, or would giue him the leaſt cauſe of offence. What I haue ſaid makes it cleare to all that doe aduiſedly conſider it, that ſith King *Ferdinand* hath not Kingly performed his Oath and promiſe as he ought to haue done, he hath made himſelfe vnworthy of the Crowne and Scepter of the *Bohemians*.

4. By his ſcornfull and ſhamefull vſage of the States.

Answere to an obiection.

It followes also necessarily, that when Oathes are giuen vnder certaine conditions, and are not performed of the King, as it is fit, but that many things are attempted and done against them, then also the Subiects are no more bound vnto him, sith it is a rule, that one may safely depart from a Bond, when the Condition is not performed vpon which hee is bound.

The Oath of the States was Conditionall.

And so disolued when the Condition was not performed: by the witnesse of

1. Historie.

Hereunto, *Historie* the Messenger of Antiquitie and Trueth, giues testimonie, out of which it is clearely manifest, that when Electiue and conditionall Kings haue broken their Oathes, then also Subiects may depart from their Fealty giuen, and from their obedience (otherwise due) without any blot of periurie or infamie. For which we haue Precedents and Warrants, the diuers actions of the *Swedelanders*, *Polonians*, *Danes*, *Switzers*, and low Country men, yea, euen the *Bohemians* themselues, when the Emperour *Rodolphe* the second had brought the Souldiers of *Passaue* to *Prague*, and yet had not thereby so much wronged the Kingdome of *Boheme* with such burnings, spoylings, robberies, and losses as *Ferdinand* hath done.

2. Law.

To speake nothing of the Law which prouides and graunts, that if the one part forsakes and breakes the Couenant, the other is

lawfully

lawfully freed from the same.

Now if in these cases the Subiect alone were bound, and not their Soueraigne also, surely an Oath should be a Bond of exceeding great iniquity and iniury. 3. of Reasons.

This is to be vnderstood of the Oathes, vpon which conditionall Kings receiue their royall Authority, who haue their soueraigne power *ex pacto*, *non ex iure*, from their Subiects by concession and vpon couenant, and not by right of succession and discent from their Auncestors: For all successiue and hereditarie Princes, are Kings afore euer they sweare to their Subiects, and doe sweare because they are Kings, but are not Kings because they sweare.

The other electiue Kings doe come to the Kingdome, by couenanting, swearing, and vpon conditions. To the one belongeth Royall power, out of the very Nature and right of Soueraigntie; to the other onely by condition; and therefore doe they neither come, nor continue to be Kings, but vpon conditions made and kept. The one is borne a Prince to his Subiects, the other is made and giuen. And as it is not lawfull for the Sonne to renounce his Father, because hee is an euill man; so no more is it lawfull for Subiects to forsake their naturall Soueraigne, because hee doth misgo-

uerne himselfe or them. But if a Conditionall King breake the conditions, vpon which he both gets and holds his Kingly power, hee doth manifestly forfait it; and doth thereby both depriue himselfe of Rule, and also free his Subiects from their Fealty. Wee haue many precedents of expresse Forfaiture, contayned in the Oath of electiue Kings, as in the Oath of *Steuen Batorij*, when he was to be made King of *Poland*, in which is this clause: *Et si (quod absit) in aliquibus iuramentum meum violauero, nullam mihi incolæ Regni omniumq; Dominorum vnius cuiusq; gentis obedientiam præstare debebunt, &c.* And if (which God forbid) I shall in any thing breake my Oath, the Inhabitants of the Kingdome shall not be bound to performe vnto me any obedience, &c. And markeable is that speech of *Zamoscius* the Chauncellour of *Poland* to *Sigismund* the third. *Quando quidem viderent Ordines, maiestatem Regiam pactis conuentis stare nolle, non debere, ait, ipsius Maiestatem in malam partem interpretari si Ordines obedientiam ipsius Maiestati renuncient, &c.* Sith the States doe see (saith he) that your royall Maiestie will not stand to your Couenants agreed vpon: Your Maiestie ought not to take it in ill part, if the States doe renounce all their obedience to your Maiestie, &c.

Chytræ. Operum Tom. 4. lib. 23. pag. 628. lin. 36

Chytræ. lib. 28. pag. 791. lin. 1.

Seeing then that *Ferdinand* (as is afore sufficiently

ciently manifested) carries himselfe contrary to his Couenants made, to his Reuersals and to his Oath giuen: therefore his Subiects also are not any more bound to performe their Conditions made to him, who breakes all made to them. *Ferdinand* ought to haue submitted all these things to the rule of reason, but he would not subiect himselfe vnto it. He made greater price, and esteeme of vnfaithfull, malicious, and wicked Counsellours, and of execrable and deuillish Iesuites, then of so many faithfull and constant Subiects, who haue most freely exposed and spent their liues, Honours, and liuelyhoods, for the honour and glory of the *Bohemian* Kings, who also by so many Petitions, so many obtestations, so many admonitions, so many interceedings, and interpositions so often made by so many Electors, Princes, and confederate Countries, could yet obtaine iust nothing at all.

II. Innocents should not haue beene set to sue for their right.

Neither shall the States of *Bohemia* runne into iust note of reprehension, for that after all their Petitions and suites, had beene despised and reiected, they would not yeeld themselues to *Ferdinand*, as guilty of wrong and treason, or sue for pardon of a fault that they had neuer done: or for that they refused coloured treaties: or for that they offered not the league made betweene the King and the incorporate Prouinces,

Prouinces, to be confirmed of King *Ferdinand*. All this would haue beene vaine, and to no purpose.

III Inquirie is needlesse in things manifest.

For the treaties of enquiring into their grieuances well enough knowne before, and of mitigating of them which should haue beene vtterly abolished by the sanction of the Maiesticall Letters, were altogether prohibited the States in the forme of the League.

IIII To things to be wholy abrogated mitigation is an enemie, as to things to be put away of a suddaine, is delay comming by treaties, or by giuing time to the enemie.

For by entertaining such treaties, there should withall haue beene entertained all kinds of protractions and delayes, which had so long detayned and delayed the States of the Kingdome and Prouinces, vntill the forces of the Kings part augmented and strengthened with the aydes of forraigne Nations, should haue cut off from the *Bohemian* Armie all opportunity of subduing their enemies, and should haue oppressed and ouerthrowne their Souldiers by force, Armes and guile, and vntill in the end (which they haue long wished for) they had subiected them, their children, and all their posterity, to the intollerable yoke of eternall seruitude, especially sith in this miserable straites of persecution, there hath appeared no faith or piety.

V That *Ferdinand* neither would nor could con-

Moreouer, if the Countries should haue exhibited the forme of the League to King *Ferdinand*, yet could they haue had no hope of future security, that hee either could or would haue

haue confirmed this League with effect. That hee neither would or could performe this, wee are taught by the horrible persecutions and banishments out of the Country which hee vsed in *Styria*, against the professours of the Gospell, in his vnquenchable hatred of Religion hee excluded, seuered, and cast out of all Office in the State, whom hee expelled out of their Country their Churches, & their houses by most cruell prescriptions, whom lastly hee pined to death with imprisonments, bonds, and other sorts of torments. His Oath also is good proofe of this, which hee tooke at his entrance vpon his Fathers gouernment, by which hee bound himselfe to roote out the professours of the Gospell to the vttermost of his power.

This is also shewed by his Oath of the golden Fleece, which bindes euery one that receiue that Order to the rooting out of Heretickes, and to the aduancing of the Popes Religion.

This also is more cleare then the noone day light, from hence also that *Ferdinand* hath receiued, and doth cherish in his bosome those Monsters of the world, and plagues of all Kingdomes, the Iesuites generally proscribed in other parts of the world, and keepes them alwayes with him and about him, with other

firme the forme of the League is manifest.

1. By his horrible persecution of the reformed Religion in *Styria*.

2. By his oath at the beginning of his rule of his Fathers Countries.

3. By his oath at the taking the order of the golden fleece.

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most pestilent Counsailers, from whom all these publique miseries and calamities haue receiued both their first birth and growth: who labour euen vntill this day with tooth and naile, to bring extreame ruine and destruction vpon these Countries. Neither hath *Ferdinand* rested heere, but further hath embraced the Iesuites with such ardent and immoderate affection, that (as the fame goes) he himselfe hath giuen his name to the Sect of *Loiola*, and is become a Iesuite.

5. By his stiffe dependance vpon the Spanish faction.

He will doe nothing in any peaceable composition in this cause, without the assent and pleasure of the King of *Spaine*, and other Catholique Princes, but will be King by plaine force and armes, and will begin his raigne with cruell practises, with warlike rigour, with burnings, with butchering, with robbing, and with wasting of the Prouinces.

Hence was it that one of the Emperours Counsailers, broke out into these words, in the hearing of an Ambassadour of one of the Electours. *The house of* Austria *will doe nothing in the Romane Empire, or in their Kingdomes and Prouinces, without the consent and good liking of the house of* Spaine, *in which resides the right of the first borne, neither can they graunt any thing to others.*

Yea moreouer, King *Ferdinand* could not either

either allow or confirme the Articles of Confederation, for feare that the Pope would excommunicate him. For hee was brought into such a streight, that without *Sdencon Adalbert de Poppell*, that was before chiefe Chauncelour in the Kingdome of *Boheme*, without the Spanish Ambassadour, and the Popes Nuncio, he could neuer propound any thing at all, consult of any thing, conclude any certainty in any affaires of State, or accomplish any thing in execution.

6. By his care to auoyd the Popes excommunication.

Furthermore, the Prouinces had bound themselues to one another by mutuall Oathes, that they would sooner loose life, and all that euer they had, then they would endure, that the Euangelicall Religion should be abrogated, or the least title of the Maiestatical Letters & League be changed. It then had bin in vaine to offer that League to *Ferdinand* to be confirmed, because he would neuer haue confirmed it, or if hee had done it in word or parchment Patents, and had put to it his greatest Seale, yet would hee neuer haue kept the Articles of the League with good faith and in trueth.

7. By the confederation of the States, most odious vnto him.

Conclusion.

And for these Causes haue the chiefe States of the Kingdome and Prouinces directed their thoughts, not to the slipperie promises of King *Ferdinand*, but to that highest & heauenly assistance of Almighty God. In testimonie

1. With serious implloration of diuine assistance.

hereof, they desire to bring in a Conscience vntoucht and vntainted, the integrity and sincerity of their hearts and mindes, and the iustice and equity of their whole Cause, being encouraged with most assured hope, that our most gracious God, will for the trueth of his word, and the true professours of it, stretch out his Almighty arme, against all the enemies of his Church, professing the Gospell of Christ Iesus, and against those Murtherers that so vehemently thirst for Christian blood, and that he will roote them out in the middest of their course of tyrannie and cruelty vnlesse they repent.

2. With an exhortation to the Princes professing the Gospell.

And the same States rest in good expectation, and full assurance that Christian Princes which professe the Gospell, will be watchfull with all their might to maintaine this most iust and honest Quarrell, which is the cause of Christ and his Church, and will defend the Kingdome of *Bohemia*, and the annexed Prouinces, and will bring the oppressed out of these troublesome stirres, and this extreame confusion of State.

3. With an incitement of the new King.

And (which euery one doth both with firme assurance of minde hope, and with inward and sincere affection of heart exceedingly wish) that the most gracious and most mighty Prince and Lord *FREDERICK*, lately

lately elected King, will labour to effect it with all his endeauour. That this new gouernment may tend to the praise and glory of Almighty God, to the propagation of the trueth of the Gospell, to the encrease and commodity of Christes Church: and lastly to the stable, and perpetuall peace and tranquillity of all these Countries,

Amen.

4. With a Prayer for a most happy gouernment.

FINIS.